FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 JUNE 1983

PLO Affairs

Ten Palestinians were killed or wounded when their convoy was ambushed on the Homs-Damascus road in Syria several hours after PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's return to Damascus, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing WAFA. The PLO official commanding the convoy did not identify the attackers but said the incident could not have occurred without Syrian connivance, the radio noted. In earlier reports on 'Arafat's activities in Damascus, the radio said he discussed the crisis in Fatah with a senior Syrian official, received an "important" message from Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov, and met with Palestinian officials including the PNC speaker and leaders of the PFLP and DFLP. 'Arafat sent a reply message to Andropov, the radio said, and confirmed that the Soviet Union is mediating in the dispute. However, the PLO leader's arrival in Damascus was not mentioned by monitored Syrian media and 'Arafat told journalists that he would "not now" be meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, according to KUNA. Radio Monte Carlo subsequently reported thatthe Syrian authorities had asked 'Arafat "to leave Syrian territory immediately and banned him from returning to Syria." The radio alsoreported that Khalil al-Wazir, now in Al-Biqa' has also been banned from entering Syrian territory.

Before leaving Lebanon, 'Arafat inspected PLO positions in the Al-Biqa' valley in order to ascertain their ability to confront "any possibilities" arising from the Syrian "interference" in Palestinian internal affairs, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported.Citing the political editor of the Palestinian news agency, the radio said the PLO knows exactly which Syrian officials were behind the outbreak of the "fabricated crisis" within Fatah and also knows details of meetings in Damascus at which the final touches of the mutiny were completed. The PLO calls on the Arabs to put an end to Syria's interference in its internal affairs, the radio added. A WAFA statement likewise ridiculed Syrian denials of interference in Fatah's affairs and insinuated that the Fatah dissidents and Ahmad Jibril's PFLP-General Command are agents of Syrian intelligence, KUNA reported. Meanwhile, Damascus television reported that the PFLP and DFLP leaders issued a statement reaffirming their desire for a peaceful outcome of the PLO's internal problems through democratic dialogue, maintenance of unity, and reinforcement of internal democracy and collective leadership. The statement called for an immediate halt to all individual statements issued in the name of the PLO without consultation through Palestinian legitimate institutions.

In related diplomatic developments, the Saudi foreign minister delivered a message to Jordan's King Husayn from King Fahd dealing with the current pressure on the PLO, Amman radio reported. Algiers radio announced that the Algerian foreign minister would shortly fly to Damascus as a personal envoy of President Chadli Bendjedid for talks with both President al-Asad and the PLO leaders. Egyptian officials also discussed the PLO's problems and an Egyptian Cabinet statement stressed the importance of maintaining the PLO's legitimate leadership and Palestinian unity, MENA reported.

Syria

Israel is expected to launch an attack against Syria, "but although Israel may be able to begin the war, it will not be able to end it," President al-Asad declared in an interview with Hungarian television broadcast by Damascus radio. Asked about the Syrian-Israeli military balance, Al-Asad said that while Israel is overstocked with diversified and sophisticated weapons, Syria's military situation is "adequate." The Syrian leader also said the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front needs to be more effective, reaffirmed his support for unity and dialogue within Fatah, and denied knowledge of an impending visit to the United States by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Israel

Israel will try to avoid a confrontation with the Syrians in Lebanon, but if a confrontation occurs, the Soviet Union will find it hard not to intervene, Defense Minister Moshe Arens told the Jewish Agency Convention in remarks reported by IDF radio. Arens also expressed concern about Egypt's "unprecedented military buildup," asserting that this is a problem because the Israelis cannot be sure it will never be used against them.

Saudi Arabia

A Riyadh radio commentary said Israeli intentions to build a nuclear station near the occupied West Bank town of Nabulus add a "new and grave dimension to the process of confiscation of Arab land."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi aircraft attacked an "important" Iranian naval target in the northern part of the Gulf, scoring a direct, effective hit, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. Tehran radio announced earlier that Iraqi Islamic revolutionaries blew up an Iraqi oil pumping station near Mosul on 17 June, thereby dealing a "deadly blow" to Iraq's oil exports.

Afghanistan

Former King of Afghanistan Mohammad Zahir Shah has called for a "representative and united front" to coordinate the activity of the Afghan resistance and represent it diplomatically. Speaking in an interview with *Le Monde*, Zahir Shah said the Soviet-imposed DRA leaders are "bound to disappear" but he nevertheless favored a political solution to the Afghan crisis.

Pakistan

Thirty-four people were killed and sixty-four others were wounded in a Sunni-Shi'ite clash in the mountainous Parachinar area, AFP reported.

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Former Afghan King on United Resistance Prospects
PM232237 Paris Le Monde in French 22 Jun 83 p 7

[Interview with former King of Afghanistan Mohammad Zahir Shah by Patrice de Beer in Rome; date not given]

[Excerpts] Rome — "In the present situation the absolute priority for every Afghan is to do his utmost to create a unitary current. This is the main reason that has forced me to enter a new stage in my solidarity with the resistance," *Le Monde* was told by former King of Afghanistan Mohammad Zahir Shah in his first interview since the 17 July 1973 coup d'etat that overthrew him.

In the apartment in the suburb of Rome where he received us, Zahir Shah has had extensive consultations recently, receiving "a large majority" of resistance movements. But throughout our conversation he remained very prudent and refused to put himself forward. "Personally, I have no ambitions, least of all to restore the monarchy," he repeated several times, "my sole aim is to serve my country. My duty is to create the conditions, the climate of understanding and unity. There is a very strong desire among our people for this unity to be created." But Zahir Shah sees himself more as a conciliator, as the link between rival organizations, including — though some have denied it — in particular several Muslim fundamentalist groups in Peshawar, than as a De Gaulle or a Churchill issuing an impassioned appeal to his fellow countrymen.

He prays for "a representative and united front to better coordinate our resistance's activities and to better represent it in international conferences and activities," with "the sole aim of liberating the homeland." This front would have a leader, a spokesman, but even in this context he refuses to put himself forward: "It is possible that a large majority of Afghans may reach an agreement and designate a representative to puruse the struggle on the domestic and diplomatic levels.... It is not obligatory for the various tendencies to be represented within a single organization." As for "those who persist in erecting obstacles to this unity, they will definitely be excluded by the people themselves."

This unitary action by means of discreet contacts — there seems no possibility now of all the resistance movements, from the fundamentalists through the former Maoists via the nationalists, sitting down at the same table — is aimed at creating a "psychological impact," an impetus toward unity. But it must not be confused with monolithism. Zahir Shah seems to be posing both as guarantor of the minor movements and critic of intolerant leaders when he says: "Our diversity is normal because the Afghan resistance is the resistance of an entire people: It is no obstacle to unification, but an enrichment. Basically, our people are united."

When his conversations are complete and he has achieved the agreement of the resistance movements, Zahir Shah intends to use his international contacts, his reputation for moderation, and the memory of the good-neighborly policy that he pursued for 40 years with the Soviet Union, because at present none of the resistance leaders seems capable of speaking on behalf of all his fellow countrymen and eventually initiating the indispensable dialogue with Moscow. Zahir Shah has no words strong enough for the Kabul leaders, responsible for a "genocide," imposed from abroad, and "bound to disappear." He condemns "the Soviet invasion, contrary to all accepted norms of international law, which has ruined the country and created millions of refugees."

Nevertheless, he added, "we are in favor of seeking a political solution to the crisis. The creation of a united organization will have a very important role to play in the quest for peace." The Afghan resistance, however strong, will be unable to defeat a superpower militarily. "Sometimes one hears rumors that the USSR may perhaps be willing to talk with Afghan resistance representatives. If this desire is real, it is necessary to create a united organization capable of speaking on the Afghan people's behalf. The representative elected by the people will take part. He will also have the power to ensure that commitments are honored.

The former king recalled: "During my reign I personally made sure that our friendly relations (with the USSR — *Le Monde* editor's note) developed, always on the basis of noninterference, legality, peaceful coexistence, and respect for our two peoples' sovereignty and interests. The USSR prided itself on our friendship. I have never wanted to adhere to a pact hostile to the USSR. Afghanistan has never been a source of danger to the USSR." In the event of negotiations, Zahir Shah believes that it will be necessary to speak the language of moderation and steadfastness. "The Afghan people," he told us, "do not want at any price for Afghanistan to be transformed into a base hostile to the USSR, once the Soviet forces have withdrawn. It will be neutral, nonaligned, a member of the Islamic world.... On the other hand, there are principles on which the Afghan people can make no concessions, which are contained in the resolutions of the United Nations, the nonaligned countries, and the Islamic Confederation: the withdrawal of all Soviet forces, respect for our territorial integrity, our people's right to self-determination without any foreign interference from anywhere" — he deliberately stressed these words — "and the restoration of our spiritual and national values."

In the event of a compromise, what would happen to the Kabul leaders if they decided not to leave with the invader? "All my life I have believed in democracy and I am not going to change that now. In tomorrow's Afghanistan each organization will have the place allocated to it by the Afghan people." In the event of an agreement, could the Kabul administration participate in the transitional structure responsible for preparing for elections, as with the solution proposed for Kampuchea by Prince Sihanouk, to enable the Kremlin to save face? "It is not for me to answer: It is an issue that would have to be discussed with the resistance. But I would try to make them incline toward political realism."

The fact remains that these negotiations that Zahir Shah so fervently desires have little to do with the "indirect" talks organized in Geneva, under UN auspices, between the representatives of Pakistan and Kabul. "The Afghan people have certain reservations about them. First, regarding their form: The Afghan problem is between the Afghan people — that is, the resistance — and the USSR — the foreign occupation force. Any negotiations would require direct talks between the real protagonists, who are absent from Geneva. Second, regarding their substance: The problem concerns not only the refugees' return but

also the Afghan people's right to freely determine their own future." He added that this conference "has created legitimate anxieties within the entire Afghan people. It is these anxieties that have prompted me to talk to you now."

This is why, he continued, "I have written personally to Pakistan's President Ziaul Haq explaining my viewpoint to him." But Zahir Shah refuses to believe in a "desertion" by Pakistan, whose efforts — like Iran's — on the Afghan refugees' behalf he praises. "Pakistan will do nothing against Afghanistan that would jeopardize its own interests and perhaps its very existence. At least, we hope not!"

Last, Zahir Shah intends to turn to the Western countries, whose backing for the resistance is "very inadequate," to make them more aware that "the Afghan problem is not a local one but that it has an international dimension and international repercussions. I do not believe that a short-lived, shaky, and ill-founded solution can be a factor of appeasement or that it can resolve the crisis." He will therefore doubtless be setting off on his travels soon to this end. He is also counting on France, which "can indeed play a major role in the defense of the Afghan people and in the quest for a political solution." Because "the present situation is not in the USSR's interests. The world was greatly shocked that it invaded Afghanistan — a neutral, independent, and nonaligned country."

Karachi Reports on Fighting in Paktia, Qandahar

BK240350 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have been besieging (Zazi) cantonment, Paktia Province, for the last 4 weeks. Soviet planes have bombarded the mujahidin's positions heavily, but have failed to break the siege.

The Soviet-backed Karmal administration forces have once again launched a major attack in Panjwai near Qandahar, where they had three major clashes with the mujahidin on 2 June. The mujahidin killed many Karmal administration soldiers and captured a number of them in those clashes.

Reportage on Defense Minister Visit to USSR

Ustinov Meeting; Banquet Speech

BK230925 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, has said that basic understanding and friendship between India and the Soviet Union govern defense cooperation. He was speaking at a dinner hosted in his honor by the Soviet defense minister, Marshal Ustinov, in Moscow last night. Mr Venkataraman also spoke of the Soviet contribution to India's efforts in building a strong self-reliant economy and defense preparedness. In his welcome speech, Marshal Ustinov assured Mr Venkataraman that his country will cooperate with India in defending the cause of peace.

Earlier, Mr Venkataraman had talks with the Soviet defense minister on matters of mutual interest, including defense. They were assisted by their aides.

Meeting With Tikhonov

BK231555 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] The defense minister, Mr R. Venkataraman, now in Moscow, met the Soviet prime minister, Nikolay Tikhonov, today. He discussed with him matters of mutual interest. The defense secretary, Mr P.K. Kaul, was also present at the hour-long talk.

Earlier in the morning, Mr Venkataraman visited the (Vistral) military academy and witnessed training and exercises there. The Soviet minister for navy, Marshal Gorshkov, accompanied him. Talking to officers and men at the academy, he said he was impressed by the level of training given to them.

Soviet Coverage

For Soviet reportage on the official friendly visit of Indian Defense Minister Ramaswamy Venkataraman to the USSR, including his talks with USSR Marshal Ustinov and other activities, see the South Asia section of the 23 June Soviet Union *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Campaign Against U.S. Ambassador Continues

BK231530 Hong Kong AFP in English 1448 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] New Delhi, June 23 (AFP) — An Indian Foreign Office spokesman today withheld comment on a continuing campaign by a local newspaper to secure the expulsion of U.S. Ambassador to India Harry Barnes.

The spokesman was answering questions on a front-page story in the pro-Moscow daily *Patriot* stating that Mr Barnes was a "top trained intelligence operative" and that the Indian Government hoped Washington would recall him.

"They are views of the individuals concerned and we do not comment on these views," the spokesman said.

Quoting "highly placed diplomatic sources," the *Patriot*'s political correspondent wrote: "His effectiveness in India has been severely damaged by his provocative statement comparing Puerto Rico's freedom movement with the secessionist demand for Khalistan (Sikh homeland)."

The paper began its campaign against Mr Barnes on June 15 by accusing the U.S. envoy of equating the independence struggle of Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory which has commonwealth status, with the Sikh demand for Khalistan in an interview he had given to two local journalists.

The interview was published by the daily *Hindustan Times* and by the *Navbharat Times* newspaper. Both have so far kept out of the campaign.

The *Patriot*'s campaign was picked up by left-wing politicians and pro-Moscow organisations which also staged demonstrations outside the U.S. Embassy to protest the envoy's alleged remarks.

When asked for her comment on return here from her European tour on Sunday, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi made clear that she saw no link between the Puerto Rican freedom movement and the demand for "Khalistan."

Without naming the United States or Mr Barnes, she also said that she knew that some elements outside the country "are not interested in India's political stability."

The U.S. Embassy, in a press release distributed yesterday, pointed to "distorted reports of recent remarks by Ambassador Harry Barnes" and stressed the U.S. Government's commitment to India's "unity and territorial integrity."

The release quoted excerpts from a letter from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to his Indian counterpart Narasimha Rao sent in March which said that Washington viewed India's unity and integrity "as key elements in the stability of the entire South Asian region, something very much in the interest of the U.S."

Mr Shultz himself is due to start an official visit to India on June 29.

Bihar Condemnation

BK240948 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] The Bihar assembly has unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the recent remarks of the American ambassador in India regarding the Khalistan movement. Moving the resolution in the state assembly yesterday, the Congress-I member, Mr Bhola Singh, said it is an interference in the internal affairs of the country.

The resolution also demanded theh expulsion of the American ambassador, Mr Barnes, from India.

AFP: PLO Requests Help in Crisis With Syria, Libya

BK231550 Hong Kong AFP in English 1536 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] New Delhi, June 23 (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has asked for Indian immediate intervention to resolve the current crisis involving the PLO, Syria and Libya.

PLO Charge d'Affaires Jamil Hajjaj here told the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency today that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had appealed to Mrs. Indira Gandhi, in her capacity as chairwoman of the Nonaligned Movement, to "exert pressure" on Syria and Libya to end the crisis.

"We hope India will send a special envoy to Syria and Libya to discuss the situation and ask them not to interfere in the internal matters of the PLO," the agency quoted him as saying.

More Cultural Exchanges With Pakistan Urged

BK231306 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] India has reiterated its desire for greater exchanges of artists and cultural troupes with Pakistan. An Indian Embassy press release in Islamabad says that this is in keeping with its policy of strengthening bilateral realtions and contacts between the people of the two countries. The press release refuted reports in the Pakistani newspapers that New Delhi has imposed restrictions on Pakistani artists visiting India to stage any commercial or public performances.

Government Proposals on Punjab Supported

BK231308 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh, has said that the union home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi's, announcement on solving the Punjab tangle once again shows the center's willingness to arrive at an amicable settlement. In a statement in Chandigarh, he said it was for the Akali leadership to reciprocate in the same spirit. Mr Darbara Singh appealed to the Akalis to avoid confrontation and cooperate with the government.

The chairman of the panel on minorities and weaker sections, Dr Gopal Singh, urged the Akali leaders to respond favorably to the union government's offer to appoint tribunals to solve problem.

The union home secretary, Mr T.N. Chaturvedi, had discussions with Mr Darbara Singh in Chandigarh today. He also had discussions with the state home department officials.

Punjab PCC-I Headquarters Rocked by Explosion

BK240754 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] According to agency reports, the state headquarters of the Punjab Pradesh [state] Congress-I Committee [PCC-I] in Chandigarh was rocked by an explosion early this morning when two crude bombs were hurled at the building. A number of windowpanes were smashed. However, about 15 Congress-I workers sleeping in the lawns escaped unhurt. The case has been registered in this connection and the police is investigating.

The Punjab PCC-I chief, Mr Hansraj Sharma, described the incident as a cowardly act. Agency reports from Jullundhur say that a bomb in a parcel killed a staff member of a daily newspaper and seriously injured two persons.

Maneka Gandhi Holds Delhi Press Conference

BK231516 Hong Kong AFP in English 1505 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] New Delhi, June 23 (AFP) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's rebel daughter-in-law Maneka Gandhi today spoke of "arbitrary" arrests of her party activists in various parts of the country and threatened to launch mass protests unless this was stopped within a week. The young widow of Sanjay, Mrs. Gandhi's younger son who died in a plane crash here in 1980, told a press conference here: "A definite pattern is emerging in it — picking up people before any event is organised by my party and then allowing them to go after it is over."

Maneka, who heads the "Rashtriya Sanjay March" (RSM — National Sanjay Forum), made the remarks within hours of the reported arrests of a number of her party members here this morning. Meanwhile, Mrs. Gandhi indirectly criticised the actions of Maneka's party at a rally marking the anniversary of Sanjay's death.

Some force were "using" the name of Sanjay to harm India's "unity, strength, self-dependence and independence," she said without naming Maneka or her party. The prime minister asked people to combat such forces but "without violence, without dirty words and without even dirty thoughts."

Maneka claimed that 115 of her party members were arrested as they went to the mausoleum of her husband to attend a prayer meeting on the occasion of the third anniversary of Sanjay's death. They were later released, she added. She pointed to her recent detention in the Punjab town of Patiala, where she had gone to lead a "peace march". Punjab is currently hit by unrest by Sikh militants campaigning for autonomy for the predominantly Sikh northwestern state bordering Pakistan.

Order Promulgated To Make Arms Act Stricter

BK221612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 83

[Text] Here is a story received just now: An order has been promulgated to make the arms act more stringent. It comes into force immediately. A minimum penalty for illegal manufacture or sale of arms and ammunition will be imprisonment for 3 years. For comparatively less serious offenses it will be 6 months. In specified areas, notified arms will be prohibited. If the government is satisfied that there is a potential disturbance to police peace in an area, it may direct that every person possessing arms of certain description in such areas will deposit them with the authorities for 90 days in the first instance. Further details of the ordinance are still coming in.

Delhi Reports on Flood Situation in Gujarat

BK230328 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] In Gujarat, people in 20 more villages are being shifted to safer places in Jamnagar and Junagarh Districts because of overflowing of the (Wardu) and (Hasnapur) dams. Heavy rains continued to lash the Junagarh District on the 5th day today. Communication between the state capital and Junagarh has been disrupted. Our correspondent in Rajkot adds that 15 dams are reported to be overflowing in Junagarh, Jamnagar, Amreli, and Rajkot Districts. The situation in Jamnagar, Junagarh, and Amreli Districts is stated to be serious. The Rajkot station of All India Radio kept its transmission open throughout last night for helping the civil administration in informing people about evacuation and relief measures.

According to the central meteorological department, the deep depression over Gujarat has weakened and remained practically stationary with its center near Surendranagar at 2330 last night. It is likely to move northeastward slightly and further weaken.

Flood Casualty Figures

BK240338 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] In Gujarat, heavy storm and rains in the last 4 days have claimed a 128 lives in Junagarh District. The state home minister, Mr Prabhodh Raval, told our Ahmedabad correspondent, Mr B.K. Dave, this morning that three villages suffered the heaviest casualty. Forty-five persons lost their lives in (Bandoi) village, 29 in (Manthali) and 22 in Shahpur. Moreover, 160 people are reported missing from (Mathiar), (Mandara), and some other villages in the district.

Over 1.7 million people are affected by the floods. More army boats will be placed into service today to rescue the stranded people. Lieutenant General Oberoi, general officer commanding in chief, Southern Command, told our correspondent that two army contingents with 12 boats and medical supplies will start work today in the Ranabagh Taluk. According to Gandhinagar control room, people in 13 villages in Amreli and Junagarh Districts are being evacuated following overflowing of the dam.

Porbandar town, which is under 4 to 8 feet of water, is completely cut off with the disruption of all modes of communication. A team of radio technicians have been rushed to restore contacts through transmitters with Rajkot and Gandhinagar.

The chief minister, Mr Madhavsinh Solanki, said more than 2,000 head of cattle have perished and vast areas of agricultural land suffered erosion. With the easing of rains yesterday, the water level in all rivers and reservoirs has started receding.

Further Details

BK240800 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Jun 83

[Text] In Gujarat, the casualty figure in the 3 days of rainstorm havoc in the Saurashtra is rapidly rising. According to official sources, 305 persons are reported dead or missing this morning. The final death toll might overtake last year's cyclone toll of 510.

More army boats are being pressed into service to rescue people from flood-affected areas in Junagarh and Amreli Districts. According to the control room at Gandhinagar, people in 13 villages in the districts are being evacuated following the overflowing of two dams.

Zia Congratulates Zhao Ziyang on Reelection
BK231547 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has congratulated Zhao Ziyang on his reelection as premier of the People's Republic of China. In a message of felicitation he said that the existing relations between Pakistan and China will help further strengthen the friendship and cooperation between them and maintain peace and stability in the region. The president paid tribute to Zhao Ziyang for his sincere services to his country. He expressed the hope that under his prudent and dynamic leadership, China will continue to play an important role in maintaining international peace and security.

The president also sent a congratulatory message to Ulanhu on his election as vice premier expressing similar feelings.

Delegation's Activities at Geneva Talks Reported
BK231732 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] The UN secretary general's special representative on Afghanistan, Mr Cordovez, devoted most of his time in the indirect Geneva talks today to informal contacts with the Pakistan delegation and representative of the Karmal regime. He is reported to have sought clarifications of their respective stands on the major issues figuring in the UN draft for a comprehensive political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN says though the talks are coming to a close tomorrow, it was not yet known whether a date for their resumption has been set or suggested by any of the parties concerned. Correspondents at the UN Headquarters in Geneva are expecting that either Mr Cordovez or his spokesman would issue a formal statement in this connection tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr Niaz A. Naik, called on the permanent representative of Iran at the UN Headquarters in Geneva yesterday evening and brought him up to date about the state of negotiations. Mr Naik was expected to hold a similar meeting with the Iranian representative after the conclusion of the talks.

The leader of the Pakistan delegation, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, hosted a dinner in honor of Mr Cordovez last night. The UN secretary general's personal representative is giving a return dinner in honor of the Pakistan foreign minister tonight.

President Meets With Defense Minister 23 June

GF240616 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] 'Ali Khamene'i, the president of the republic, met today with Colonel Salimi, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council [as heard] and defense minister, who presented him a comprehensive report on the Defense Ministry. The president issued his directives to him.

The president also met with Mirza Taheri, assistant prime minister and chairman of the Environment Protection Agency, on the occasion of his visit to Bahrain to participate in the conference to discuss the oil spill and pollution of Persian Gulf waters. He exchanged views with him on the oil slick resulting from the rocket attack the Iraqi regime carried out on the Nowruz oil field in February.

President Khamene'i issued the necessary directives. It should be noted that the rocket attack the Iraqi regime carried out on the Nowruz oil field is threatening the life of the inhabitants of the southern coast of the Persian Gulf and sea life in the region.

'Free Voice' on Meeting

GF240730 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] In connection with reports of differences between the army and guards corps, Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, chief of the joint staff of mullahs and the imposed commanders of combined forces, met with Khamene'i. Today Colonel Salimi, the minister of defense of Khomeyni's regime, also met with mullah Khamene'i.

According to a report by the Free Voice of Iran correspondent, Khamene'i issued instructions at this meeting on the future offensive inside Iraqi territory which most probably will take place on 21 Ramadan, which coincides with the anniversary of the martyrdom of Hazrate 'Ali, peace be upon him. Khamene'i stressed that those commanders who are opposing the new offensive must be dismissed.

As the dear listeners of the Free Voice of Iran recall, the tragic attacks of Khomeyni's regime inside Iraq failed five times and each time the casualty figures were in the thousands. The mullahs have no goal except to make propaganda from these offensives whose human wave tactics kill thousands of Iranian youth.

The brave Iranian Army which has no other duty than guarding the frontiers of Iran after the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces to international boundaries does not see any need to continue the war and is not willing to assume responsibility for thousands of Iranian youth on the battlefields merely to satisfy the mullahs' passion.

President Briefed on Oil Slick Developments

GF231558 Tehran IRNA in English 1543 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA — Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of the Environment Protection Agency Mirza Taheri who is to travel to Bahrain in order to take part in the convention for studying of the oil slick in the Persian Gulf, met and conferred this morning with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

In that meeting, Mirza Taheri submitted to the president a report on the activities of the oil slick monitering headquarters in the Persian Gulf and its progresses so far, as well as the upcoming meeting for the capping of the oil wells which has been damaged by the Iraqi regime's bombing of the Iranian oil wells in the Persian Gulf.

The president provided Mirza Taheri with pertinent guidelines.

Foreign Minister Scorns Iraqi Appeal on POW's

GF231605 Tehran IRNA in English 1553 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA — Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati commenting on request of the Iraqi regime from the secretary general of the United Nations to send a delegation to inspect the status of the Iraqi POW's in Iran, said that the Iraqi regime once in a while in order to cover up its criminal nature resorted to such ploys.

Speaking to IRNA here today, he added that through such attempts, the Iraqi ruler aimed at posing as a humanitarian. The truth is that, the Iraqi regime would have accepted the Iranian proposal for exchange of visit between the POW's and their families, if it really wanted to find out about conditions of its POW's in Iran Dr. Velayati said. Furthermore, all efforts of international organisations to make the Iraqi regime to give a positive reply to the Iranian proposal have failed, he continued.

The Iranian foreign affairs minister pointed out that no body except family members of the POW's could comment on the POW's conditions. He also referred to the fact that the Iraqi regime has even refused proposal of the Iranian Government concerning unilateral acceptance of the relatives of the Iraqi POW's.

Another humanitarian measure of the Islamic Republic of Iran was its willingness to exchange some 6,800 Iraqi POW's with the Iranian POW's. Unfortunately, this proposal too, has so far remained unanswered.

Iran has always treated the Iraqi POW's in the best manner, and in accordance with humanitarian and Islamic principles, far higher than what was required by the international organizations.

As for the report of the special delegation of the U.N. who visited the war torn cities of Iran, the report was expected in the next few days and hoped that the mission would provide the world public opinion with realities.

Foreign Ministry Scores French Support for Iraq

GF231554 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA — The recent statement of the French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson on Iranian internal situation and counterrevolutionaries, is just a specious excuse for the French socialist government's staunch support for the Iranian counterrevolution and crumbling regime of Saddam, said the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran today.

He said the French support for Saddam had given rise to great economic crises for France.

Once in every few months the French Government tries to find an alibi for its continued support for the Iranian terrorists and counterrevolution by propagating falsities and rumors on the internal situation of Iran, and Iran's struggle against internal counterrevolution, concluded the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,355

LD231748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Communique No 1,355 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday, an exchange of fire continued between the combatants of Islam and the mercenaries of the Ba'thist aggressor Iraqi forces on most of the western fronts; being more intense in the Sumar sector. On those fronts our combatants continued their defensive operations in their sectors, and by defensive fire and dispatching patrol groups to specific points they kept enemy movements under observation and inflicted losses and casualties on them.

In the Sar Dasht border region the combatants of Islam brought enemy units and artillery positions under heavy aritllery fire, silencing enemy fire, killing or injuring more than 30 enemy personnel, and crushing some of their positions.

On the southern fronts, our combatants defended their positions and returned enemy fire with artillery and heavy arms fire, silencing enemy fire, keeping their movements under control, and inflicting losses and casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries.

At 1215 yesterday, an enemy unit attempted an offensive in the Sharhani sector, but once again encountered brave resistance by the self-sacrificing forces of Islam, was brought under heavy artillery fire by our combatants, and was forced to flee after suffering heavy casualties.

During exchanges of fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, thanks to the fire of the combatants of Islam, a number of Iraqi forces' bunkers, together with their crews,on the other side of Arvand Rud were destroyed and the traffic of enemy military vehicles on the Al-Fao-Basrah axis was prevented.

During the past 24 hours, Abadan was brought under occasional enemy artillery and heavy arms fire, resulting in the injury of two of our dear compatriots and damage to a number of houses.

During the past 24 hours, all attempts at aerial aggression by enemy planes against western and southern border regions of the country were foiled by the self-sacrificing personnel of the Air Force and anti-aircraft units.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Mopping Up Operations in Kordestan Continue

LD231906 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] Continuing mopping up operations in Kordestan's villages against the filth of the subservient counterrevolutionaries, Islam's combatants have succeeded in mopping up the villages of (Hanif) and (Khiyareh) in the (Deh Kolan) region. Our combatants killed more than 25 armed outlaws.

According to a dispatch from the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters, during these operations quantities of arms, including G-3's, Kalashnikovs, and ammunition were captured by Islam's combatants.

Tehran Reports on Iraqi Kurdish Operations

LD231223 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jun 83

[Text] According to the reports we have received, at 0500 hours last Friday the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries managed to blow up the pumping station of the Iraqi pipelines, which reach the Mediterranean Sea through Turkey, in an area between the cities of Viji and Musil. After completing the operations, the revolutionaries returned to their bases safely.

According to the reports, the explosion of the Iraqi oil pumping station has dealt a deadly blow to Iraq's oil exports.

According to another report, the operations of the Iraqi Muslim Kurdish revolutionaries have also expanded in Iraq's Kurdistan, and the cities of Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk have been witnessing the revolutionary demonstrations and the violant operations of the Kurdish Muslim revolutionaries. The Iraqi Muslim Kurdish revolutionaries struggle for the establishment of an Islamic regime in Iraq and the sovereignty of Islamic values in that country.

NVOI Assails Iranian Political, Social Situation

TA222035 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 22 Jun 83

[Unattributed commentary: "The People's Patience, Perseverance,and Trust Have a Limit"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: No day passes without the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials, political, and religious figures, in the course of speeches and interviews, feeding people — who are thirsting for action and for basic, fundamental, and revolutionary reforms — certain statements regarding the need to serve the oppressed. Chanting slogans and giving promises to the people is so prevalent in the country that even certain persons in the upper echelons of the clergy — for example Ayatollah Montazeri — have been complaining. He has said that we should pay heed to chanting fewer slogans and act more. The people should not feel that interviews and slogans exceed accomplishments.

Of course, the people have heard many such statements and expressions of concern during the post-revolutionary era, but the outcome is the very difficult situation we are all witnessing. The Iranian people have felt and are feeling the meaning and nature of the claims of the Islamic Government's rightists in serving the oppressed, over their whole being, in the form of the oppressed becoming more oppressed and the arrogant more arrogant. This reality is so obvious that many officials in the upper echelons of the Islamic Republic, both those who have been killed and those who are alive, have repeatedly acknowledged it. The late Raja'i said that the oppressed have gained nothing from the revolution.

In fact, these remarks were an alarm bell confirming that the Islamic Government is pursuing a course that will eventually lead the revolution's gains to destruction. Yes, the policy of compromise and conciliation by a specific wing of the Islamic leadership — which at one time used to be called the realistic wing — has finally created a situation such that practically whatever our homeland's combatant people gained following the revolution's victory is now being eroded as a result of the plot and assault of rightists, superficials, and monopolists who with their creeping coup have grasped in their hands key levers of the Islamic government.

Articles stipulated in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution are being violated. There is no sign of basic and fundamental reforms in the interest of the toiling masses. Those lands whichat one time had been delivered to farmers are currently being returned to feudalists and large landowners due to the efforts of the gentlemen in the Council of Guardians. According to the religious decree of some pseudosources of imitation, factories and productive national institutions that had been expropriated are being returned to the capitalists. Economic terrorists and satanic bazaaris who at one time had a dispute with the regime of Satan over the level of plundering the people, are continuing to suck the blood of the oppressed people.

After the passage of more than 4 years since the revolution, many satanic laws and regulations, including and particularly the Aryamehri labor law, are still being applied with respect to our homeland's workers and toilers. And they have given an important post in the Islamic Republic Party, as a reward, to Mr Tavakoli, the Islamic Republic's labor minister, for his opposition and hostility toward our homeland's workers and toilers, which is totally apparent.

Thus, the Islamic government which in action and deed has driven the revolution toward regression, apparently henceforth, too, intends to fill people's stomachs with empty promises.

The Iranian people staged a revolution and destroyed the regime of Satan in order to enjoy the fruits of the revolution and see happy days following the revolution. However, what did take place in practice? What happened in practice was that in many instances the conditions of the toiling masses became worse. Everyone was deprived of political and social freedoms, and inquisition, terror, and repression became dominant in the country. Evidence indicates that the superficial rightists want to impose on our country and people a fascist system similar to Ziaul Haq's military regime, in the garb of religion. Our people who thirst for freedom are currently witnessing and observing the use of terror and repression that is unprecedented in our homeland's history.

Despite all this, they keep offering promises to the people and still claim that they are acting in the interest of the oppressed people. Apparently these gentlemen believe that the people will believe their promises forever. They are little aware that the people have realized that only through struggle and unity can they gain their legitimate right.